



SOUTH TURRAMURRA ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (S.T.E.P.) INC.

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NEWSLETTER --- MAY, 1987.

Our Heritage Week walk to "Bungaroo" was enjoyed in beautiful Autumn weather by some 40 participants. Don't miss our next attractions--

SUNDAY, MAY, 17TH -- BUSHWALK -- ALONG THE "STEP TRACK."

Meet at 2.00 p.m. at end of Kingsford Avenue, South Turrumurra. The walk is on fire trails and tracks in the South Turrumurra bushland: Banksias and Acacias are in bloom as well as many small flowers.

Afternoon tea at conclusion (approximately 4.30 p.m.)

Further information: Alan Catford 449-1658.

SATURDAY, JUNE, 13TH -- DAY WALK IN THE STEP AREA.

Meet at 11.00 a.m. at end Kissing Point Road, South Turrumurra (expected finish time 3.00 p.m.) This is a fairly easy walk, suitable for families with children 6 and up and babies in back packs. Along the way there will be time for observations of different habitats and management problem areas of erosion, weed invasion and fire. Bring your picnic lunch and something to drink. Walk will take place whatever the weather. Enquiries: Jenny Simons 449-8945.

CANCON ROAD NETBALL COMPLEX PARKING AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

A meeting was held recently at Council be invitation of the Mayor, of representatives from the Netball Association, local community and environment groups, Council's Bushland Management Working Party and members of Council Staff. Many issues were discussed and suggestions made by all parties. STEP's concern is that no more of the precious ridge top heath be used for parking areas and that the present parking area be defined so that further damage by vehicles will be prevented. The bushland surrounding the Netball courts contains a rare Christmas Bush occurrence and the last remaining Christmas Bells in the Lane Cove Valley. The Netballers are sympathetic to saving the bushland and of course have a concern for the problems experienced by residents living in Cancon Road and adjoining streets. It is hoped that some trials with re-routing outgoing traffic will be undertaken shortly in an effort to alleviate the congestion which occurs during the mid-morning peak usage. STEP has proposed that a management plan be drawn up for the netball court environs recognising the fragile and rare nature of the ridgetop vegetation. After submission to interested groups this plan should be implemented to arrest further informal encroachment into the bush, by vehicles, erosion and weeds.

1987 HAZARD REDUCTION.

Council has advised us of the areas proposed for hazard reduction burning in South Turrumurra: from Geoffrey Street to almost the end of Ashburton below the fire trail.

In most seasons this area is not an extreme fire hazard due to its aspect but of course properties have to be protected. The area contains a valuable *Banksia ericifolia* closed heath which is the habitat for many small birds. As well there are some plants of the rare *Darwinia biflora*. The National Parks and Wildlife Service has requested to be involved in Council's proposed monitoring of the regeneration of this species.

STEP is concerned about the 8 or more swaths hacked through the bushland, no doubt in preparation for burning. The fact that they have been cut directly down the slope of the land and in a totally unsympathetic manner will lead to an erosion problem and ingress of weeds. We have requested Council to constantly monitor this important area and take remedial action should erosion and weed invasion occur.

BUSH REGENERATION.

Work commenced on Sunday 26th April in the Cooper Crescent Creek, which is a catchment for the rainforest area in Browns Field. This is a very pleasant site to work on: weeds are easily removed and visible results evident within a short time. The next session is on Sunday 24th May, 2-4 p.m. Explanation of the Bradley Method of bush regeneration will be given. Gardening gloves, small trowel and secateurs would be useful; STEP has some spare sets of tools available. Further information: Yvonne Langshaw 449-1541.

COURSES.

Two of our members who attended a course at Sydney Technical College entitled "Plant Identification and Collecting" were enthusiastic about its value. Places are available for this term of 10 sessions plus 2 excursions. Lecturer: Bob Crombie. Enquiries 69-9822.

RCADS 2000.

The D.M.R.'s recently released "Roads 2000" report details the plan for road development to the year 2000. STEP is pleased to note that the F3, LANE CCVE VALLEY FREEWAY is not on the current construction program and in fact the section from Epping Road to Linley Point is no longer required. This will allow the return of a large tract of valuable urban bushland and residential property to the community.

The corridor from Pearces Corner to Epping Road, which vitally affects our bushland, is not programmed for release at this stage. The D.M.R. is undertaking a complete review of such corridors and STEP will continue to press for an early release of this land.

BUSINESS MEETINGS.

A brief General Meeting will be held, commencing at 7.45 p.m., prior to the Committee Meeting on Monday 8th June, at 26 Chisholm Street, Turrumurra, to ratify a committee recommendation to increase annual subscriptions from 1st July, 1987, as follows:-

Family Membership \$8.

Single Membership \$6.

Concession \$4.

It is two years since subscriptions were increased and this rise is necessary to cover ever increasing costs of new-letter production, postage and annual costs associated with maintaining incorporation. As mentioned in our last Newsletter, meetings are open to all members and if you would like to attend please phone Yvonne Langshaw on 449-1541.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING. Monday 11th May, 1987.

STCP PRESS:

THURSDAY, 21ST MAY, at 8.00 p.m. we will be joining with Ku-ring-gai Bushland and Environmental Society and West Pymble Bushland Society at West Gordon Public School Hall, Kooyong Road, West Gordon, to hear Professor Carrick Chambers, the new Director of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

His subject will be roadside vegetation and backyard bushland as habitat and a wildlife corridor.

It should be a stimulating evening and we urge members and friends to support this joint activity. (Donation for Supper.)